

The SCHOOL Breeze

Spring/Fall 2008



Teachers, students & volunteers wanted for Maine schools' no-idling project

In September of 2008, **Clean Air Zone** facilitators will kick off a Maine No-Idling Project focused on improving health by reducing vehicle idling at selected schools and in communities.

We need students interested in conducting health related research, educating drivers and clearing the air in their community and schools.

65,000...

the number of school absence days due to asthma each year in Maine

You are the key to make the project a success!

"It's for the health of the children."

Students select, plan and implement a civic action plan based on the community need and evaluate the project's effectiveness and civic contribution.

Your school's CAZ Service Learning Team will be provided with community-based social marketing training and tools (such as magnets, tip cards, pledge cards, etc.) to kick off your own campaign. What a great service learning opportunity in line with the new Learning Results!

Clean Air Zones

Students and volunteers can help people understand the importance of clean air to everyone's health. Small, seemingly insignificant changes in behavior, such as not idling a car, can add up to substantial reductions in air pollution and money spent at the gas pump.

Service-learning provides essential opportunities for students not only to develop civic participation skills, values, and attitudes, but also to acquire first-hand knowledge of the topics they are studying in the curriculum.

Classroom activities are aligned with Learning Results and address topics such as energy, air quality & health, ozone and particulate pollution, global climate change and air toxics. FMI: <http://www.maine.gov/dep/air/education/cleanairzone.htm>

What is Idling?

Have you ever left a car running while...

- ✓ waiting to pick someone up?
- ✓ running errands?
- ✓ warming up or cooling the interior?



Idling means leaving a vehicle's engine running when it is in park or not in use.



Our Mission: To protect and enhance air quality and health in Maine communities.

The Maine Clean Air Zones project is sponsored by the Maine DEP, American Lung Association of Maine, Maine Energy Education Program and Kids in Transportation of York and Cumberland Counties, Maine Council of Churches and Maine Chapter of Sierra Club who are collaborating on this effort.

Building Healthier Communities



You can start a local Clean Air Zone campaign at your local schools; spreading the word neighbor to neighbor and establishing no-idling zones in your community.

Breathe Easier, Save Money, and Protect our Air and Health by turning off your vehicle whenever parked.



There are many good reasons not to idle.

- ♦ Idling causes pollution.
- ♦ Pollution can cause health problems.
- ♦ Idling wastes expensive fuel.
- ♦ Excessive idling can damage engine components.
- ♦ Conserving fuel promotes energy independence.

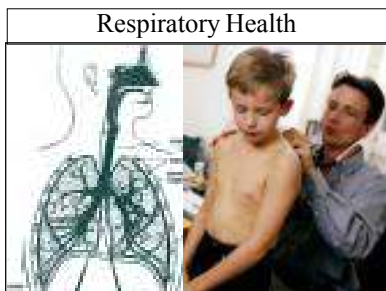
The Problem: Air Pollution & Our Health



In Maine, 13.2% of children suffer from asthma - that's the highest rate in New England.



Children are more sensitive to pollution; they breathe 50% more air per pound of body weight.



Vehicle emissions can trigger asthma attacks and other heart and breathing health problems.



Vehicle emissions contribute particulates and air toxics, as well as nitrogen oxides which react with sunlight to form ozone pollution.



Vehicle or mobile sources contribute more than 50% of our air pollution emissions here in Maine.